

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 4, second full paragraph, has been amended as follows:

When the flexible core member 11 is a wire member (or takes a wire shape), if this wire member is made of a plastic material, the wire member will bond with good affinity to the respective segments 5, 6, 7 and 8 at the time of insert molding, so that there is no absolute need for a special connecting means for connecting (or attaching) the segments 5, 6, 7 and 8 to the core member 11. However, when the flexible core member 11 in a wire shape is made of a material other than plastic and is made of a metal material, then stopper blocks 13 (see Figure 3) are fastened to both ends of such a metal core member 11 so that the connection between the core member and the segments is reinforced. Furthermore, in order to prevent breakage caused by fatigue, tubular cushion members 12 can be provided on the flexible core member 11 at the bending locations near both ends so that the cushion members 12 are exposed from the segments 5 and 7.